

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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P 140945Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9770

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4634

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PGOV EAID MASS CB US

SUBJECT: WHAT ADVICE DO WE GIVE KHMERS IF CONGRESS REFUSES  
TO VOTE SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR CAMBODIA?

1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, SAUKHAM KHOY, CORNERED ME AT THE SOUTH KOREAN DCM'S FAREWELL RECEPTION TODAY, MARCH 14. HE ASKED ME WHETHER CONGRESS WOULD VOTE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW BUT THAT I REMAINED HOPEFUL WAYS WOULD BE FOUND FOR CONGRESS TO MAKE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CAMBODIA. (I WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL DOD DRAW-DOWN AUTHORITY AND LIFTING OF CEILING.)

SAUKHAM KHOY THEN ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF CONGRESS REFUSED TO MAKE THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE. I REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT THAT WITHOUT THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE KHMERS TO GET THROUGH TO THE END OF THE DRY SEASON IF FIGHTING CONTINUED AT THE PRESENT LEVEL. SAUKHAM KHOY THEN LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE FACE AND SAID, "WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US KHMERS? WHAT DO YOUR RECOMMEND WE DO?"

3. I TOLD HIM THAT AS THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC I REALIZED THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY. I SUGGESTED WE TALK ABOUT IT AT SOME OTHER PLACE THAN AT A SOCIAL RECEPTION.

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IN THE MEANTIME I SAID THAT THE KHMERS SHOULD NOT CON-

CLUDE PREMATURELY THAT AMERICAN CONGRESS WILL NOT  
MAKE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE. I SAID WE WOULD BE IN  
A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO KNOW WHERE WE STAND NEXT WEEK.

4. SAUKHAM KHOY SAID IT WAS MOST DISCOURAGING FOR THE  
KHMERS TO SEE THEIR FOREIGN FRIENDS ALL  
DEPARTING SO HASTILY. HE CITED THE FORTHCOMING DE-  
PARTURE OF THE AUSTRALIANS, THE DEPARTURE OF THE ISRAELIS,  
THE LARGE-SCALE VIETNAMESE EVACUATION, AND NOW THE  
FRENCH PLANES WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE THIS WEEK-  
END TO EVACUATE MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH COMMUNITY. HE  
SAID THAT "THE KHMERS HAD ALWAYS PUT THEIR TRUST IN  
THE AMERICANS." QUITE FRANKLY, HE SAID, IF THE KHMERS  
DO NOT GET THE NECESSARY FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO HOLD  
OFF THE COMMUNISTS, HE DOESNOT KNOW WHAT THE KHMERS  
SHOULD DO. SINCE I COULD NOT ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS I  
SIDE-STEPPED HIS QUERY AND TOLD HIM THAT I SENT TWO  
LARGE BOXES OF MEDICINES TO HIS WIFE FOR DISTRIBUTION  
BY THE CAMBODIAN LADIES IN THE KHMER HOSPITALS. I  
AGREED TO MEET WITH HIM NEXT WEEK.

5. COMMENT: I WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF I COULD GET  
DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON HOW I SHOULD ANSWER DIRECT  
QUESTIONS BY WELL-MEANING KHMERS AS TO WHAT THEY SHOULD  
DO IF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS REFUSES SUPPLEMENTAL RE-  
SOURCES TO CAMBODIA.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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